GRAON): (a) and (b) Government of Gujarat have reported that no order regarding lifting on ban on coupe cutting in the State has been issued by them so far.

Communal disturbances in the country

1145. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that communal disturbances in various parts of the country are on the increase;

(b) what are the details of the communal disturbances that took place during the last six months from January to June, 1989;

(c) what are the main causes of these disturbances; and

(d) whether various suggestions and recommendations made by the previous Commissions in this regard have been considered and implemented to contain such disturbances in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There were serious incidents of communal violence in Dhule (March, 1989) in Maharashtra, Tonk, Bigod and Makrana (March and May, 1989) In Rajasthan and at Hazaribagh (April, 1989) in Bihar.

(c) Communal disturbances are generally the handi-work of anti-social and communal elements.

(d) Based on the recommendations of the National Integration Council and those of various Commissions of Inquiry, detailed and comprehensive guidelines were issued to all the State Governments of Union Territories in July 1985. Lessions have also been drawn from the recent riots e.g. Meerut riots of 1987 and a fresh set of guidelines was circulated to the State Governments/Union Territories in 1988. The communal situation was further reviewed and discussed in the meeting of the Chief Secretaries held at New Delhi in June, 1989 wherein it was emphasized that the comprehensive guidelines for preventing and controlling communal violence as also for promoting communal harmony should be scrupulously followed by all the concerned authorities so as to install confidence in the minority communities. The need for tonning up of intelligence machinery was also stressed to thwart the evil designs of the communal and anti-social elements.

Action to control the prices of natural rubber

1146. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern India Rubber Manufacturer's Federation has urged Government to control the rubber prices which are shooting up every day;

(b) whether Government have since taken any steps to control the prices of natural rubber; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) The manufacturers and their associations including Northern India Rubber Manufacturers Association, have represented about the rise in the prices of rubber and requested for reduction of import duty on rubber to zero level.

The Government is taking all possible steps to contain the rising trend of prices by resorting to adequate imports and timing their releases. Exemptions orders for reducing im-

port duty on natural rubber on consignment basis are also being obtained as and when required.

Stock exchange at Bhubaneswar

1147. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which Bhubaneswar Stock Exchange in Orissa was granted recognition;

(b) whether it has not yet been made operational;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the delay; and

(d) what steps have been taken so that it is made operational soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Bhubaneswar Stock Exchange Ltd. was recognised by the Government under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 with effect from the 5th June, 1989.

(b) to (d) The management of the Exchange have invited applications for the membership through advertisements in National News Papers on 24th and 25th July, 1989 and the last date for receipt of completed applications is 16th August, 1989. Trading will commence as soon as the members are selected.

Opening of new branches of Syndicate Bank

1148. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of Syndicate Bank so far opened in different States and the locations thereof;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to open some new brances of Syndicate Bank in 1988-89;

(c) whether place has been identified in Orissa therefor; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that, as at the end of December, 1988, 1468 branches of Syndicate Bank were functioning in the country. The time and labour involved in listing out the branches and their location may not be commensurate with the result to be achieved.

(b) On the basis of lists of identified centres received from the State Governments, RBI has allotted 77 rural and semi-urban centres to Syndicate Bank under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90. RBI has also allotted 9 urban and 10 Metropolitan/port town centres to Syndicate Bank. As per the information available with RBI, Syndicate Bank has opened branches at 26 rural and semi-urban centres, 6 urban centres and 6 metropolitan/port town centres. The branches at the remaining centres are yet to be opened. In addition, RBI has allotted 16 rural centres to Syndicate Bank under the Service Area Approach. RBI has advised the bank to open branches at the allotted centres expeditiously.

(c) and (d) RBI has alllotted 2 centres to Syndicate Bank, namely, Badapada in Cuttack and Kalanagadia in Mayurbhanj Districts of Orissa. The branch at Badapada has since been opened and the branch at Kalanagadia is yet to be opened.